

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 18, 2008**

PRESENT: Diane Ripple, Jim Pearson, Ron Pupp, Caitlen Daniels, Raquel Mehring, Ed Cohen, Barb Holtz, Joe Vitale, Michelle Cornwell, Faith Holley-Beal, Barbara Vaughn Peterson, John Schiraj, Don Harris, Amanda Behling, Megan Pieczynski, Meg Kasprowicz, Sara Carpenter

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Slesar, Antwayne Robertson, Jesus Mireles

Ron Pupp called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and introductions were exchanged.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Don Harris made a motion, seconded by Joe Vitale to approve the minutes of June 19, 2008. Joe Vitale made a motion, seconded by Don Harris to approve the minutes of July 17, 2008. The motions were voted on and carried.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Joe Vitale reported on a number of items:

- The Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) presented an award to the Department of Health and Human Services for its fine work with the citizens who were affected by the flooding earlier this year.
- At the last joint Health and Human Services Committee meeting, the 2009 amendment for the County Aging and Disability Resource Center was presented. It will be submitted to the County Board for approval.
- Dodge County is trying to create a new non-stock corporation to operate its Clearview nursing home in partnership with all counties that place residents there.
- Wisconsin Community Services will hold a benefit on September 19, 2008 at the old Nelson home.
- On October 8, 2008, the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee will have a luncheon and vote to dissolve as the new Aging and Disability Resource Center has been developed.
- Lutheran Social Services Birth to Three provided \$70,000 worth of services, which was more than what they were compensated for from the County.
- The Senior Lifestyle conference is Monday, October 27, 2008 at the Country Springs
- Due to the disbanding of the DDAC, the Birth to Three Committee, which is a subcommittee of the DDAC, is looking at combining with the Family Support Advisory Committee. The new subcommittee and some of its members will then fall under the Child and Family Services Advisory Committee (CAFSAC).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Ron Pupp contacted the members of the Child and Family Services Advisory Committee. He noted that eight of the members do not attend regularly, so he contacted them to see if they had an interest in serving. Only one member wished to remain on the committee so at the October meeting a more formal vote will take place as there are only a certain number of positions available. The other outstanding issue is identifying consumers who would like to participate on this committee.

ISSUE SEGMENT

John Schiraj reported that it has been a year since the last report. Again, the state has approved the funding for 2009 of \$103,000. Additional funding from United Way in the amount of \$64,879, for a total of \$167,879 will go to the agencies under the Safe and Stable Families Program.

Healthy Families of Waukesha County, Inc.

Barbara Vaugh Peterson provided an overview of Healthy Families. Healthy Families mission and vision is to provide the support needed for new parents to create successful families, and that all children will be raised within safe and healthy families. The Healthy Families program offers the support of an in-home Family Support worker to strengthen family's support systems, and assist new parents in identifying their needs while accessing appropriate community resources and improving their ability to become self-sufficient.

From January 1 thru June 30, 2008, Healthy Families screened 996 families for the program. 208 met the target population, 41 were screened eligible, and out of the 41, 35 families accepted the program. The two outcomes the program tracks is that children are healthy (goal 95%, achieved 99% in 2nd quarter) and improvement in family functioning (goal 95%, achieved 100% in 2nd quarter). A Healthy Families success story was shared.

Prevention & Protection of Abused Children, Inc.

Michelle Cornwell is the Coordinator for all of the visitation programs, and is located within the Department of Health and Human Services facility. She supervises both county and private referrals. PPAC has been successful for over twenty years with the Supervised Visitation Program. It prides itself on being objective and taking well documented notes. Reasons why parents may be referred to PPAC may include custody or divorce disputes or low to moderate income levels.

In 2007, PPAC provided 299 hours of supervised visitation to 199 children. The program tracks three program outcomes:

- 1) The child is safe during a supervised visitation (100% of goal met).
- 2) Relationship with parent is maintained (83% reconnected or maintained relationship throughout the permanency plan). Twelve parents did not maintain the outcome due to parents in jail, cancellations, threatened staff, and two children unwilling to meet with parents.

- 3) Safe environment with the ultimate goal being reunification or through adoption (100% of goal met)

A PPAC success story was shared.

Lutheran Social Services Attachment Therapy Program

Rebecca Simon presented an overview of the Lutheran Social Services Attachment Therapy Program. The goal of the program is to preserve family placements for children and families with attachment related issues. Children in the program have either experienced significant trauma in their early lives or may have experienced multiple traumas including abuse, neglect, and numerous placements. Children with attachment issues display a wide range of behaviors including resistance to parenting and nurture, aggression, stealing, lying, and sexual acting out. The intensive therapy has a strong parenting component where they teach parents techniques to deal and manage these challenging behaviors that are demonstrated by the child. The outcome goals were met for 2007. A success story was shared.

St. Charles Waukesha Mentor Program

John Schiraj provided an overview of the St. Charles Waukesha Mentor Program. The Mentor Program provides mentoring services to severely emotionally disturbed (SED) youth referred from the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services. Mentoring Services are a part of each client's treatment plan designed by the County Social Worker along with the client and the client's family. Mentoring is individualized to meet the specific needs of the client, and may include any of the following activities: teaching social skills, conflict resolution, problem solving, etc. Mentoring services serves boys and girls ages 6 to 17 who are severely emotionally disturbed and who are either at risk for being removed from their home or have been temporarily removed from their home. Many clients are cognitively challenged and have been diagnosed with a mental illness or have a physical disability. One of the family preservation outcomes is to successfully maintain clients at home, with a target of 80%. This goal was met last year. For family reunification, six children were reunited with their family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Pearson with the Addiction Resource Council mentioned that they are looking for more interested parents to hold the Prime for Life Lifestyle Risk Reduction Training for Parents. Cost of the workbook is \$25.00, and there may be some scholarship available as we are going through the Partnership for Children's Mental Health targeting drug and alcohol prevention and the dangers of prescription drugs.

The Women's Center Hispanic Outreach Counselor has begun working with Spanish speaking individuals who may need employment related or domestic violence services.

October 10, 2008 is the annual Domestic Violence Conference, a discussion on mental health issues as it relates to domestic violence.

The Cornerstone Counseling office in Brookfield is adding a Nurse Practitioner for psych evaluations and medication management. Clients or family members that need psychiatric

services for children is lacking in the community and this will also bring down the costs to children and adults.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 16, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Human Services Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Approved on _____
(Date)